US FOREIGN POLICY -- THE USE and MISUSE OF THE MILITARY

Course Description: As the President, State Department and National Security apparatus pursue and administer U.S. foreign policy in the areas of trade, diplomacy, defense, intelligence, foreign aid, and global environmental policy, they pursue a variety of objectives and face a multitude of challenges. The US military has been used (and often misused) the last 75 years as a foreign policy cudgel in an uneven and sometimes inexplicable fashion. This has made the US appear imperialistic, hypocritical, and erratic. The results are embarrassing – the world’s most powerful military has not won a war in 75 years, has destroyed numerous societal systems, created millions of displaced refugees, and spawned disdain for our policies along with creating numerous enemies who will seek payback for US’ hubris. We will look at case studies of American foreign policy fiascos which have eroded the image and reputation of America around the world and ended the role of the US as a staunch defender of freedom and democracy.

Course Director

Dr. Michael Baker has practiced general surgery and trauma for more than 35 years in Contra Costa County. He also had a parallel career in the military and teaches combat casualty care, triage, trauma, operational medicine, and response to complex disasters and humanitarian emergencies. He has published over 60 peer reviewed articles, and has lectured at numerous national and international conferences and teaches at US military bases around the world. He also lectures on world events and serves on the Board of the World Affairs Council of Northern California. As a Navy Officer, he has experience in operational medicine, overseas deployments, war gaming, and strategic planning. He worked on the contingency planning for various potential theaters of conflict including the Persian Gulf area as Naval Forces Central Command Medical Officer, plans and exercises for potential events in Korea / Asia as the Commander of US Naval Medical Forces Korea, and was assigned to US Strategic Command as a Medical Officer. He served his country in uniform for 30 years and retired with the rank of Rear Admiral, and on retirement was awarded his 3rd Legion of Merit, which he proudly wears alongside his Marine Corps Combat Action ribbon and the Combat Craft Riverine Warfare pin.

Using his experience in both careers, he will inform the students about the use and misuse of the military and try to bridge the gap between the public and those who serve in uniform.

Objectives

a. Understand the evolution/revolution in US Military Affairs in this century
b. Recognize the value and utility of a powerful and robust military in foreign policy
c. Learn how National Strategy and National Military Strategy are developed and implemented
d. Identify the failures of the National Strategy and policies with respect to wars of the last 75 years
e. Review the global threats vis-a-vis current strategy, policy, and national / military preparedness

f. Understand how the military is now separated from society as a whole and why national service could be of value

g. How do we prepare for future conflicts??

Draft Course Outline

I. National Strategy
   a. Historical
   b. World War II transition
      i. Global policeman
      ii. Marshall Plan - NATO -- Alliances
      iii. World Bank and IMF
      iv. United Nations
   c. Current

II. Military as a tool of National Strategy
   a. Design and configuration
   b. Budget and Monetary Cost
   c. Capabilities
   d. Forward Reach / bases
   e. Alliances

III. Other tools of American Foreign Policy
   a. National Image
   b. Diplomatic Power
   c. Soft Power of the military
   d. Cultural power
   e. Economic and Commercial power
   f. Case Study: How this can be applied to the current Korean situation

IV. Current Wars and assessment of the National Strategy / policy
   a. The most powerful military in the world has not won a war in 75 years
   b. Korea
   c. Vietnam
   d. Iraq
   e. Afghanistan
   f. Syria
   g. China
   h. Russia

V. Relationship of Society to the Military
   a. World War 2
   b. Vietnam
   c. The Draft
   d. The concept of National Service / the Draft – “the greatest threat to national security are the divisions within our society” – Gen Stanley McChrystal
   e. Case Study: The Cost to Society of the 18 years conflict in the Mideast
VI. Future wars and Future Warfare
   a. Where are the biggest threats coming from?
   b. How will the next (perhaps current?) war be conducted?
      i. The role of current tools – tanks, aircraft, trucks
      ii. Missiles, Hypersonic missiles and nuclear war
      iii. Unmanned vehicles and robots
      iv. Cyberwar
      v. Artificial intelligence
   c. Case studies: Bioterror

Suggested Reading:

   1. Savage Century – Therese Delpeche
   2. Dereliction of Duty – HR McMaster
   3. The Dulles Brothers – Steven Kinzer
   4. The Generals – Thomas Ricks
   6. Against all Enemies – Richard Clarke
   7. Generation Kill—Evan Wright
   8. Last Stand of Fox Company
   9. About Face – David Hackworth
   10. A Bright Shining Lie – Neil Sheehan
   11. Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph by T. E. Lawrence

OLLI Weekly Lecture Schedule

I. US NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY AND COMMAND AUTHORITY
   b. National Command Structure
   c. Combatant Commands
   d. Korea Case Study

II. National Security Strategy
   a. How is Foreign Policy Made
      i. State Dept
      ii. Intelligence
      iii. National Security Team
   b. The Scar on the American Psyche _ Vietnam
III. Military Force vs Diplomacy and other forms of State Power
   i. State dept / Diplomacy
   ii. Economics
   iii. Culture
   b. Lebanon Case Study

IV. Current Wars and assessment of the National Strategy / policy
   a. Iraq + Afghanistan

V. Relationship of Society to the Military
   a. Draft vs National Service
   b. 18 years of PTSD – a public health crisis

VI. Future wars
   a. Where is the biggest risk?
      i. Threat from Russia
      ii. North Korea
      iii. China
   b. How will the next war be fought?
      i. Summary and Conclusions

SUGGESTED READING

1. US NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY AND COMMAND AUTHORITY /
   https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Publications/Books/charting-a-course/Article/1026966/chapter-3-us-defense-policy-and-strategy/
   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy
   https://www.politicalscienceview.com/elements-of-national-power/
Korea Case Study

https://www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/korea_hickey_01.shtml


  a. Last Stand of Fox Company -- Bob Drury and Tom Clavin
  b. From Pusan to Panmunjon - Paik Sun Yup

2. Review of Failed Wars / Vietnam


https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/the-vietnam-war-in-hindsight/ -- Richard Haass


https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/a-wars-secret-history-finally-emerges -- STRATFOR

https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/vietnam-war-truth-lies-article-1.3504827

https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/08/vietnam-war-our-trust-government-has-declined/

A BRIGHT SHINING LIE – Neil Sheehan

ABOUT FACE – David Hackworth

DERECTION OF DUTY – HR McMaster

3. Military Might and the Other tools of American Foreign Policy

  a. Lebanon Case Study
  b. From Beirut to Jerusalem – Thomas Friedman
  c. Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph by T. E. Lawrence

4. Review of Current Wars / Iraq + Afghanistan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah5InELw97w


https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/economic

The Great Game – Peter Hopkirk

FIASCO - TOM RICKS
AGAINST ALL ENEMIES – RICHARD CLARKE

GENERATION KILL: DEVIL DOGS, ICE MAN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND THE NEW FACE OF AMERICAN WAR, by Evan Wright

5. Relationship of Society to the Military

https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/student-resources/research-starters/draft-and-wwii

https://www.truthdig.com/articles/was-ending-the-draft-a-grave-mistake/


https://www.nixonfoundation.org/2015/02/45-years-later-nixon-gates-commission/


a. Skin in the Game, poor kids and patriots – Maj Gen Dennis Laich
b. The Greatest Generation – Tom Brokaw

6. Future Warfare

https://listverse.com/2016/08/26/10-horrifying-future-wars-we-will-live-to-see/

https://www.thenation.com/article/us-military-is-preparing-for-new-wars-china-russia/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOTYgcdNrXE

https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/02/01/12-depressing-previews-of-americas-next-war/


b. LikeWar: The Weaponization of Social Media, by P. W. Singer and Emerson T. Brooking
c. Savage Century – Therese Delpeche
d. War is a Racket by Marine Major General Smedley Butler, 1935
e. Future War: Preparing for the New Global Battlefield, Robert Latiff